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EPA expands investigation of Troy demolitions

More Troy records turned over in asbestos abatement probe

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Troy

Federal agents left with more documents from City Hall and met with city firefighters this month as their investigation of the King Street and King Fuels demolitions expands.

The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** criminal investigations agents met with Corporation Counsel Kevin Glasheen and requested records, **John Salka**, a spokesman for Mayor **Patrick Madden**, said Tuesday.

"The **EPA** representative requested some additional information," Salka said.

The documents were provided and since then, Salka said, "We have not heard back."

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The EPA, FBI, state **Labor Department** and state **Department of Environmental Conservation** agents have been examining the removal of asbestos from 4-10 King St. downtown and at the King Fuels site in South Troy when demolition occurred in 2013.

The issue of possible lack of proper asbestos abatement and the circumstances surrounding city oversight has interested the federal and state investigators. Former City Engineer **Russ Reeves**, who was interviewed at the FBI's Albany Division office in March 2014, raised concerns about the way demolition proceeded at both locations.

The case is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Attorney's **Office of the Western District of New York** operating out of its Rochester office.

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EPA agents attended the **Troy Uniformed Firefighters Association** meeting in December and January, according to firefighter **Frank Razzano**, the union president.

"They asked us to cooperate. We're cooperating in any way we can," Razzano said.

"In the interest of public safety we have an obligation to help," Razzano said.

The agents appeared most interested in speaking to firefighters who were on duty on Aug. 6, 2013 when 4-10 King St. was razed as an emergency demolition. Bombers Burrito Bar at 2 King St. remained opened as 4-10 King St. was taken down.

The latest request for documents from City Hall comes 10 months after subpoenas were served at City Hall and on private firms in March 2015 for files related to the two demolition sites and other materials. When agents served the subpoenas

Federal and state agents have interviewed scores of current and former city employees as part of their investigation. Most of the interviews have taken place away from City Hall. City employees have said that the agents have appeared at their homes to

interview them or have made arrangements to interview them in neutral settings such as coffee shops.

In 2014, former City Council President **Rodney Wiltshire** led extensive City Council hearings into the demolition work at 4-10 King St. and at the King Fuels site.

During the hearings, the City Council heard testimony from Reeves; Fire Chief **Thomas Garrett** about the decision to order the demolition of 4-10 King St. as an emergency; building owner **Donald Boyajian**; former Mayor **Lou Rosamilia**; and other city officials. Testimony also was taken on the King Fuels site.

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